

STANDING UP FOR OUR RIGHTS

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia is a non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting civil liberties and civil rights for everyone in the Commonwealth. As a non-profit membership organization with more than 24,500 supporters in Virginia and more than 1.6 million supporters nationwide, we advance this mission through litigation, advocacy, and education with the goal of securing equality and freedom for all.

REDUCING RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



The criminal justice system in Virginia is in urgent need of reform. Between 1980 and 2016, Virginia's prison population grew by more than 341 percent incarcerating people of color at a 2:1 ratio. We support bipartisan reforms that would reduce racial disparities, increase transparency, and improve professional standards for our law enforcement.

The ACLU of Virginia supports criminal justice reforms that fight to:

- **Decriminalize marijuana** by eliminating all penalties for possession and use
- **End pre-trial detention for anyone who is not a danger to public safety** and enhance funding and uniformity for pre-trial services
- **Require a conviction** before law enforcement can convert someone's money or property to cash.
- **End the use of solitary confinement**, but at a minimum report and make public clear and accurate data on its current use
- **Change the law to allow a police officer to lose their state certification** for serious misconduct.

ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATORY VOTING PRACTICES



Virginia is one of only three states to permanently disenfranchise its citizens who are convicted of a felony. The result? One out of every five black Virginians cannot vote - that is 22 percent of the entire African American population in the Commonwealth.

The ACLU of Virginia supports:

- Amending our state constitution to guarantee the right to vote for every Virginian over 18 that cannot be abridged by law
- No-excuse absentee voting in person or by mail

PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY



In 2018, the Supreme Court found that cell phone location data was protected under the 4th Amendment but here in Virginia we have yet to codify this groundbreaking win for digital privacy. The ACLU of Virginia supports keeping personal data private and calls for the legislature to codify and expand *Carpenter v. United States* into law.

ACHIEVING GENDER EQUITY



The ACLU of Virginia supports ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). If passed, Virginia will be the 38th and final state needed to amend the United States Constitution.

We also oppose bills that infringe on a woman's constitutional right to make decisions about her own healthcare, including access to abortion and birth control.